



## Civilian Conservation Corps Restrooms

### Introduction

Between 1933 and 1941 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was active in the newly created Tucson Mountain Park (TMP). During that time the CCC was tasked with making improvements to the park for the enhancement of the visitor's experience. In 1961 the northern portion of TMP was withdrawn from the county park and added to Saguaro National Monument. Today most of those CCC improvements may be found within Saguaro National Park's Tucson Mountain District (TMD).

The CCC created eight picnic areas, five of which are in TMD. At these picnic areas the CCC built tables with benches, fire places, shelter houses, ramadas, and restrooms or comfort stations (CCC referred to restrooms as latrines). All of the picnic areas at TMD have CCC constructed restrooms, either single large double units with separate men's and women's rooms, or two single-sex units (as with Sus).

### Description

There are seven comfort stations built by the CCC at TMD and Tucson Mountain Park that still exists. All of the comfort stations at TMD have been closed and sealed to protect them from vandalism. Gates Pass, Mam-A-Gah, Signal Hill, Ez-Kim-In-Zin, and Cam-Boh each have one comfort station while Sus has two comfort stations.



Women's restroom at Sus. Note skirt of stone around base of structure.



This CCC restroom is at Gates Pass in TMP. Note how beautifully the NPS Rustic architecture style blends in with the natural surroundings.

Signal Hill originally had two comfort stations but only the foundation of the second building exists.

According to the 1937 CCC Base Map Juan Santa Cruz picnic area also had two comfort stations but they have been replaced with a modern structure.

Some comfort stations are single units while others are double units. They range in size from 10 ft. by 6 ft. for single units to 17 ft. by 14 ft. for double units, and have walls up to 2 ft. thick. The walls of the comfort stations usually have a skirt of stone – the flaring out of the lower portions of the walls, which is exemplified by the women's comfort station at Sus. They had saguaro rib grills on the windows and roof.<sup>1</sup> Half the roof was "ceiled" and the other was covered with these saguaro ribs.<sup>1</sup> No two comfort stations are identical in construction, but the ones at Gates Pass and Ez-Kim-In-Zin are very similar. The comfort stations are located away from the activity area and blend in beautifully with their Sonoran Desert surroundings. They are wonderful examples of NPS Rustic Architecture (see Resource Brief on NPS Rustic Architecture).

The arrangement and condition of interior features of each of the comfort stations cannot be described due to the fact the comfort stations at TMD have been closed and sealed. The interior of the comfort station at Gates Pass is open to

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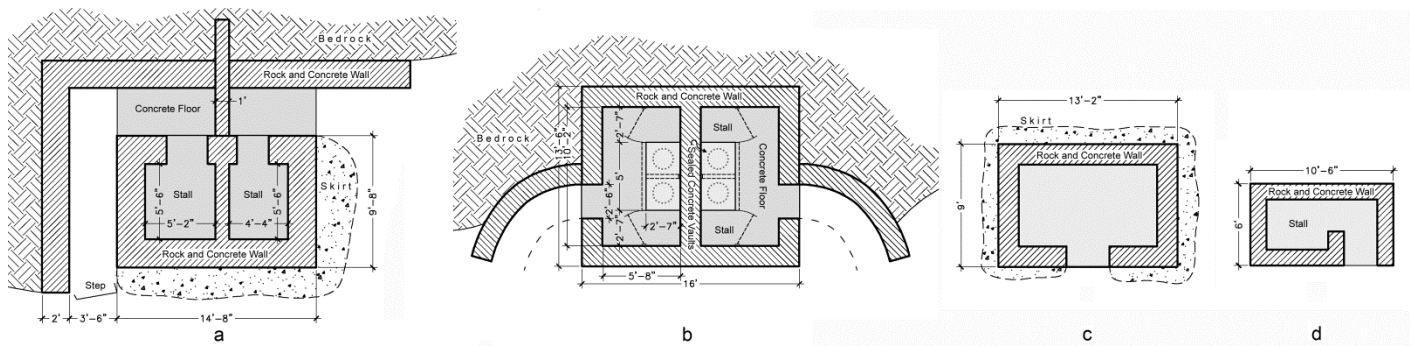
the public (see schematic below for layout of the Gates Pass restroom).

In 1961 when the Tucson Mountain District was added to Saguaro National Monument the Park Service began a program of rehabilitation. Toilet paper dispensers were installed in the restrooms and redwood doors were hung.<sup>2</sup> Dividers were also placed in all of the restrooms.<sup>3</sup> “Men” and “Women” signs were also installed at the Cam-Boh, Sus, and Signal Hill picnic areas.<sup>4</sup> At some point the saguaro rib roof was replaced with a solid roof and concrete floors were added.

The restroom that seems to have been modified the most is at Signal Hill. In addition to the modifications noted above, the Signal Hill restroom had a window put in through its west wall (see photograph at upper right).



Comparative photographs, dated 1930s and 2012, of the CCC restroom at Signal Hill picnic area showing modifications made over the intervening years.



Schematic showing various configurations of restrooms at TMD/TMP. a: Mam-A-Gah b: Gates Pass and Ez-Kim-In-Zin (with slight changes to the wing walls) c: Cam-Boh and Sus (with skirt/buttress). d: Signal Hill (without skirt/buttress) and Sus (floor plan flipped, with skirt/buttress). Drawings a and b have substantial retaining/wing walls.

<sup>1</sup> Cecil E. Clark: United States Department of the Interior-National Park Service, Emergency Activities Job Application and Completion Record for Job No. 148, Tucson Mountain Park, Arizona, Latrines in Picnic Areas, 22 December 1938. On file at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center.

<sup>2</sup> Franklin B. Montford: Narrative Report for June, 1962, Memorandum to Chief Park Ranger from District Park Ranger, T.M.D., 3 July 1962. Folder 5: Monthly Narrative Report, T.M.D., 1962-1967. On file at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center.

<sup>3</sup> Franklin B. Montford: Monthly Narrative Report for December, 1962, Memorandum to the Chief Park Ranger from the District Park Ranger, T.M.D., 5 January 1963. On file at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center.

<sup>4</sup> Franklin B. Montford: Monthly Narrative Report for February, 1963, Memorandum to the Chief Park Ranger from the District Park Ranger, T.M.D., 2 March 1963. On file at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center.

### Visiting CCC Features

Remember, the CCC features are an important part of our local history and as such are significant cultural resources. Please be respectful and act accordingly.

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